SNOWY MONARO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Priority Weed

Gorse

Ulex europaeus

Gorse is a priority weed in the South East region. Infestations must be controlled and not allowed to spread. Suspected sightings should be reported to Council.

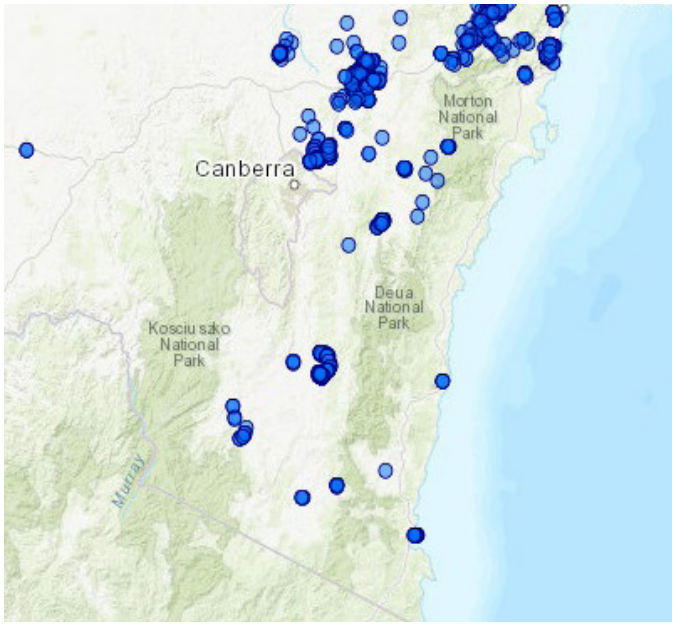
Help us find and control this invasive weed.

Why is Gorse a problem?

Gorse is an invasive spiny shrub to 3 m tall which produces masses of bright yellow flowers in late winter. It forms dense impenetrable thickets and can reduce pasture carrying capacity, block access, and provide shelter for pests. In National Parks and other environmental areas, gorse can compete with native vegetation and increase the risk of bushfires as it contains flammable oils and retains dead vegetation, increasing fuel loads.

Gorse was introduced to Australia in the early 1800s as a hedge and ornamental plant and is usually found near old homesteads and nearby waterways. Major infestations occur in the higher rainfall areas of the Blue Mountains, Tasmania, Victoria and New Zealand however only isolated infestations of gorse exist in the Snowy Monaro region, owing mainly to our relatively low rainfall.

Gorse is spread by seed which mostly remains near the parent plant but can be spread by water movement, mud on vehicles, and animals. Seeds are long lived, remaining viable for up to 30 years, with significant germination events occurring after fire or soil disturbance.



Above: Recorded distribution of Gorse in SE NSW.

Above: Gorse shrubs are covered in bright yellow coconut scented flowers in late winter and early spring.

For information on how to identify and control weeds contact the Biosecurity team.

24/7 Customer service line
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SCAN ME

Above left: Gorse (right) has similar flowers to Scotch broom (left) and Cape broom (middle) but can be most easily differentiated by its many sharp spines.

Above right: Stems are soft, green, and hairy when young, becoming brown and woody when mature. Each stem ends in a single sharp spine, After flowering, gorse develops hairy grey seed pods which turn black as they mature. Seed pods are 20-30 mm long and 6 mm wide and contain 2-6 seeds.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING GORSE

- Long term monitoring of known sites is essential even after all plants have been removed due to the longevity of seeds.
- Sheep and goats eat gorse seedlings and adult plants may be reduced in bulk by large numbers of goats. Individual plants can be dug out.
- Four biological control agents are available for gorse but these are only effective in areas with dense infestations.

CHEMICAL CONTROL OPTIONS

WARNING: Always read the label and any applicable permit before opening and using herbicides.
Herbicides are most effective when incorporated into an integrated weed management plan. The following chemicals and rates are provided as a guide only. See NSW Weedwise for more options. Seek expert advice before commencing broadacre control as optimal herbicide rates can vary significantly depending on soil types and pasture conditions.

Product trade names are supplied on the understanding that no preference between equivalent products is implied, and the inclusion of a product does not imply endorsement by SMRC over any other equivalent product from another manufacturer.

Chemical	Rate	Comments
Glyphosate 360 g/L (Various products)	1 L plus 200 mL wetter per 100 L of water	Apply to actively growing bushes. Spray to wet all foliage. Apply all year round, but only to actively growing plants. Always add PULSE or equivalent penetrant otherwise reduced results will occur.
Metsulfuron-methyl 600 g/kg + Glyphosate 360 g/L (Various products)	10 g metsulfuron methyl herbicide plus 200 mL of glyphosate per 100 L of water.	Apply to bushes up to two metres tall. Ensure thorough spray penetration and coverage of whole plant.
Triclopyr 300 g/L + Picloram 100 g/L (Various products)	500 mL per 100 L water	Winter treatment. High volume spray rate, cover all the foliage to the point of runoff. For best results add a compatible wetter at 100 mL per 100 L of water (see label for compatible wetters).

NSW WeedWise can be accessed as web pages or as a smartphone app

Available on the iPhone App Store ANDROID APP ON Google play

Recommendations taken from NSW DPI WeedWise. Last updated September 2024.